

Application No.: 09/925553

Case No.: 56950US002

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-30 (canceled).

31. (new) A fire barrier assembly for fire stopping an opening in a partition without a secondary support structure, comprising a plurality of fire stop articles arranged in the opening, each fire stop article comprising an interior insulating material, and an intumescent material arranged around at least a portion of said interior insulating material, said intumescent material comprising filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component.

32. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 31, further comprising an enclosure surrounding each said fire stop article.

33. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 32, wherein said enclosure is a sealed bag formed of polymeric material.

34. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 31, wherein the intumescent material further includes organic char-forming components.

35. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 31, wherein said interior insulating material comprises inorganic fibrous material.

36. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 35, wherein said inorganic fibrous material comprises at least one of fiberglass, mineral wool, refractory ceramic materials, and mixtures thereof.

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37. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 35, wherein said inorganic fibrous material comprises mineral wool having a density of at least 4 pounds per cubic foot.

38. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 31, wherein said interior insulating material has opposed first and second opposed major surfaces, and further wherein sheets of intumescent material are arranged adjacent each of said first and second surfaces.

39. (new) A fire stop article as defined in claim 38, wherein each of said intumescent sheets is adhesively bonded with said insulating material first and second major surfaces.

40. (new) A fire barrier assembly as defined in claim 31, wherein the fire stop articles are held in place in the opening by compression.

41. (new) A fire barrier assembly as defined in claim 31, wherein said intumescent material completely surrounds said interior insulating material.

42. (new) A method of fire stopping an opening in a partition to form a fire barrier in the opening without a secondary support structure, comprising the step of:

- (a) arranging a plurality of fire stop articles in the opening, each fire stop article comprising
 - (i) an interior insulating material; and
 - (ii) an intumescent material arranged around at least a portion of said interior insulating material, said intumescent material comprising filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component.

43. (new) A method of fire stopping an opening in a partition as defined in claim 42, wherein the fire stop articles are arranged in the opening such that the fire stop articles are held in place in the opening by compression.

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44. (new) A fire barrier installation, comprising:

- (a) a partition containing an opening; and
- (b) a plurality of fire stop articles arranged in said opening, each fire stop article comprising
 - (i) an interior insulating material; and
 - (ii) an intumescent material arranged around at least a portion of said interior insulating material, said intumescent material comprising filler material, binder material, and a hydrated alkali metal silicate intumescent component.

45. (new) A fire barrier installation as defined in claim 44, further comprising at least one item passing through said opening.

46. (new) A fire barrier installation as defined in claim 44, wherein said opening has an area of greater than 300 square inches.

47. (new) A fire barrier installation as defined in claim 44, wherein said partition has a concrete substrate for adhesion and said fire barrier installation passes a hose stream test in accordance with ASTM Test E814.